

# Lingala

**Lingala** (Ngala) is a Bantu language spoken throughout the northwestern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a large part of the Republic of the Congo. It is spoken to a lesser degree in Angola and the Central African Republic. There are over 70 million lingalophones.

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## History

In the 19th century, before the creation of the Congo Free State, the *Bangala* (literally: 'river people') were a group of similar Bantu peoples living and trading along the bend of the Congo River that reached from Irebu at the mouth of the Ubangi River

| Lingala                             |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Ngala                               |  |
| <span><i>lingála</i></span>         |  |
| Native to                           | Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic,   |
| Region                              | Congo River  |
| Native speakers                     | Native speakers: Estimates range from 10 to 15 million speakers (2017) <div>L2 speakers: 25 million speakers (2017)<sup>[1][2]</sup></div>   |
| Language family                     | <div>Niger–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Southern Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bantu (Zone C)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bangi–Ntomba (C.30)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bangi–Moi<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bangi<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Lingala</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div> |
| Dialects                            | Bangala  |
| Writing system                      | African reference alphabet (Latin), Mandombe   |
| Official status                     |  |
| Official language <span> </span> in | <span><span></span></span> Democratic Republic of the  |

to the Mongala River.<sup>[5]</sup> They spoke similar languages, such as Losengo, but their trade language was Bangi, which was the most prestigious language between Stanley Pool (Kinshasa) and Irebu. As a result, people upstream of the Bangala mistook Bangi for the language of the Bangala and called it Lingala (language of the Bangala), and European missionaries followed suit.

In the last two decades of the 19th century, after the forces of Leopold II of Belgium conquered the region and started exploiting it commercially, Bangi came into wider use. The colonial administration, in need of a common language for the region, started to use the language for administrative purposes. It had already simplified, compared to local Bantu languages, in its sentence structure, word structure and sounds, and speakers borrowed words and constructs liberally from other languages. This allowed the language to spread easily amongst the Congolese population. However, the fact that speakers had very similar native languages prevented Lingala from becoming as radically restructured as Kituba, which developed among speakers of both Bantu and West African languages.

Around 1900, CICM missionaries started a project to "purify" the language in order to make it "pure Bantu" again. Meeuwis (1998:7) writes:

[M]issionaries, such as the Protestant W. Stapleton and later, and more influentially, E. De Boeck himself, judged that the grammar and lexicon of this language were too poor for it to function properly as a medium of education, evangelization, and other types of vertical communication with the Africans in the northwestern and central-western parts of the colony ... They set out to 'correct' and 'expand' the language by drawing on lexical and grammatical elements from surrounding vernacular languages.

The importance of Lingala as a vernacular has since grown with the size and importance of its main centers of use, Kinshasa and Brazzaville; with its use as the lingua franca of the armed forces; and with the popularity of soukous music.

## Name

European missionaries called the language Bangala, after the Bangala people, or Lingala. The latter was intended to mean '(language) of the Bangala' or 'of the River' (that is, 'Riverine Language'). However, this was an error, as the proper Bangi form would have been Kingala.<sup>[6]</sup> The name Lingala first appears in writing in a publication by the CICM missionary Egide De Boeck (1903).

## Characteristics and usage

| Congo <div> Republic of the Congo</div>  |  |
|---|--|
| Language codes  |  |
| ISO 639-1   | ln ( <a href="https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?iso_639_1=ln">https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?iso_639_1=ln</a> ) |
| ISO 639-2   | lin ( <a href="https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=261">https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=261</a> )  |
| ISO 639-3   | lin  |
| Glottolog   | ling1263 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/ling1263">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/ling1263</a> ) <sup>[3]</sup>                            |
| Guthrie code  | C30B <sup>[4]</sup>  |
| Linguasphere  | 99-AUI-f   |
| <div></div> <div>Geographic distribution of Lingala speakers, showing regions of native speakers (dark green) and other regions of use</div> |  |

According to some linguists, Lingala is a Bantu-based creole of Central Africa<sup>[7]</sup> with roots in the Bobangi language.<sup>[8]</sup> In its basic vocabulary, Lingala has many borrowings from various other languages, such as French, Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

In practice, the extent of borrowing varies widely with speakers of different regions (commonly among young people), and during different occasions.

### French

- *momí*, comes from 'ma mie' in old French meaning 'my dear' although it can sound like it means grandmother, is used in Lingala to mean girlfriend
- *kelási* for class/school

### Spanish

- *chiclé* for chewing gum

### Portuguese

- *manteka* for butter
- *mésa* for table
- *sapátu* for shoes

### English

- *míliki* for milk
- *súpu* for soup
- *mamiwata* for mermaid, literally mammy/seareine
- *búku* for book<sup>[9]</sup>
- *mótuka*, from *motor-car*, for car<sup>[10]</sup>

## Variations

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The Lingala language can be divided into several dialects or variations. The major variations are considered to be Standard Lingala, Spoken Lingala, Kinshasa Lingala and Brazzaville Lingala.

Standard Lingala (called *lingala littéraire* or *lingala classique* in French) is mostly used in educational and news broadcasts on radio or television, in religious services in the Roman Catholic Church and is the language taught as a subject at all educational levels. Standard Lingala is historically associated with the work of the Catholic Church and missionaries. It has a seven-vowel system (/a/ /e/ /ɛ/ /i/ /o/ /ɔ/ /u/) with an obligatory tense-lax vowel harmony. It also has a full range of morphological noun prefixes with mandatory grammatical agreement system with subject–verb, or noun–modifier for each of class. Standard Lingala is largely used in formal functions.

Spoken Lingala (called *lingala parlé* in French) is the variation mostly used in the day-to-day lives of Lingalaphones. It has a full morphological noun prefix system, but the agreement system is more lax than the standard variation, i.e. noun-modifier agreement is reduced to two classes. Regarding phonology, there is also a seven-vowel system but the vowel harmony is not mandatory. This variation of Lingala is historically associated with the Protestant missionaries' work. Spoken Lingala is largely used in informal functions, and the majority of Lingala songs use spoken Lingala over other variations. Modern spoken Lingala is

increasingly influenced by French; French verbs, for example, may be "lingalized" adding Lingala inflection prefixes and suffixes: "acomprenaki te" or "acomprendraki te" (he did not understand, using the French word *comprendre*) instead of classic Lingala "asímbaki ntína te" (literally: s/he grasped/held the root/cause not).

## Phonology

### Vowels

|                  | Front | Back |
|------------------|-------|------|
| <u>Close</u>     | i     | u    |
| <u>Close-mid</u> | e     | o    |
| <u>Open-mid</u>  | ɛ     | ɔ    |
| <u>Open</u>      | a     |      |

| IPA      | Example (IPA)          | Example (written)   | Meaning | Notes   |
|----------|------------------------|---------------------|---------|---|
| <u>i</u> | /lilála/               | lilála              | orange  |   |
| <u>u</u> | /kulutu/               | kulútu              | elder   |   |
| <u>e</u> | /elo <sup>ɲ</sup> gi/  | elongi              | face    |   |
| <u>o</u> | /mobáli/               | mobáli              | boy     | pronounced slightly higher than the cardinal o, realized as [ɔ] |
| <u>ɛ</u> | /lɛlɔ́/                | lɛlɔ́               | today   |   |
| <u>ɔ</u> | /ᵐbɔ́ <sup>ɲ</sup> ɡɔ/ | mbó <sup>ɲ</sup> ɡɔ | money   |   |
| <u>a</u> | /áwa/                  | áwa                 | here    |   |

### Vowel harmony

Lingala words show vowel harmony to some extent. The close-mid vowels /e/ and /o/ normally do not mix with the open-mid vowels /ɛ/ and /ɔ/ in words. For example, the words *ndɔbɔ* 'fishhook' and *ndobo* 'mouse trap' are found, but not *\*ndɔbo* or *\*ndobɔ*.

### Vowel shift

The Lingala spoken in Kinshasa shows a vowel shift from /ɔ/ to /o/, leading to the absence of the phoneme /ɔ/ in favor of /o/. The same occurs with /ɛ/ and /e/, leading to just /e/. So in Kinshasa, a native speaker will say *mbóte* as /ᵐbóte/, compared to the more traditional pronunciation of /ᵐbɔ́tɛ/.

### Consonants

|                      | <u>Labial</u>         |                       | <u>Alveolar</u>       |                       | <u>Post-alveolar</u> | <u>Palatal</u> | <u>Velar</u>          |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Nasal</u>         | <u>m</u>              |                       | <u>n</u>              |                       |                      | <u>ɲ</u>       |                       |                       |
| <u>Stop</u>          | <u>p</u>              | <u>b</u>              | <u>t</u>              | <u>d</u>              |                      |                | <u>k</u>              | <u>g</u>              |
| <u>Pre-nasalized</u> | <sup>ɱ</sup> <u>p</u> | <sup>ɱ</sup> <u>b</u> | <sup>ɳ</sup> <u>t</u> | <sup>ɳ</sup> <u>d</u> |                      |                | <sup>ŋ</sup> <u>k</u> | <sup>ŋ</sup> <u>g</u> |
| <u>Fricative</u>     | <u>f</u>              | <u>v</u>              | <u>s</u>              | <u>z</u>              | <u>ʃ</u>             | ( <u>ʒ</u> )   |                       |                       |
| <u>Approximant</u>   | <u>w</u>              |                       | <u>l</u>              |                       |                      | <u>j</u>       |                       |                       |

| IPA                | Example (IPA) | Example (written) | Meaning                   |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>p</u>           | /napési/      | napési            | I give                    |
| <sup>m</sup> p     | /ᵐpeᵐbéni/    | mpembéni          | near                      |
| <u>b</u>           | /boliᵑgo/     | bolingo           | love                      |
| <sup>m</sup> b     | /ᵐbɛlí/       | mbɛlí             | knife                     |
| <u>t</u>           | /litéja/      | litéya            | lesson                    |
| <sup>n</sup> t     | /ᵐtɔᵑgɔ/      | ntóngó            | dawn                      |
| <u>d</u>           | /daidai/      | daidai            | sticky                    |
| <sup>n</sup> d     | /ᵐdeko/       | ndeko             | sibling, cousin, relative |
| <u>k</u>           | /mokɔɔ/       | mokɔɔ             | day                       |
| <sup>n</sup> k     | /ᵑkóló/       | nkóló             | owner                     |
| <u>g</u>           | /galaméɛ/     | galaméɛ           | grammar                   |
| <sup>n</sup> g     | /ᵑgáí/        | ngáí              | me                        |
| <u>m</u>           | /mamá/        | mamá              | mother                    |
| <u>n</u>           | /bojini/      | boyini            | hate                      |
| <u>ɲ</u>           | /ɲama/        | nyama             | animal                    |
| <u>f</u>           | /fɔtɔ/        | fɔtɔ              | photograph                |
| <u>v</u>           | /veló/        | veló              | bicycle                   |
| <u>s</u>           | /sɔ́ɔ/        | sɔ́ɔ              | truly                     |
| <sup>n</sup> s     | /ɲɔ́nsɔ/      | nyónsɔ            | all                       |
| <u>z</u>           | /zɛ́ɔ/        | zɛ́ɔ              | sand                      |
| <sup>n</sup> z (1) | /ᵐzáᵐbe/      | nzámbe            | God                       |
| ɟ                  | /ɟakú/        | cakú or shakú     | African grey parrot       |
| <u>l</u>           | /ɔ́ɔ/         | ɔ́ɔ               | gold                      |
| <u>j</u>           | /jé/          | yé                | him; her (object pronoun) |
| <u>w</u>           | /wápi/        | wápi              | where                     |

(1) [ᵐz] is allophonic with [z] depending on the dialect.

## Prenasalized consonants

The prenasalized stops formed with a nasal followed by a voiceless plosive are allophonic to the voiceless plosives alone in some variations of Lingala.

- /ᵐp/: [ᵐp] or [p]

e.g.: mpɛmbéni is pronounced [ᵐpɛᵐbéni] but in some variations [pɛᵐbéni]

- /ᵐt/: [ᵐt] or [t]

e.g.: ntɔ́ngó is pronounced ᵐtɔ́ᵐgó but in some variations [tɔ́ᵐgó]

- /ᵑk/: [ᵑk] or [k]

e.g.: nkanya (*fork*) is pronounced [ᵑkɔna] but in some variations [kɔna]

- /ⁿs/: [ⁿs] or [s] (inside a word)

e.g.: nyɔ́nsɔ is pronounced [ᵑɔ́ⁿsɔ] but in some variations [ᵑɔ́sɔ]

The prenasalized voiced occlusives, /ᵐb/, /ᵐd/, /ᵑg/, /ⁿz/ do not vary.

## Tones

Lingala being a tonal language, tone is a distinguishing feature in minimal pairs, e.g.: *mutu* (human being) and *mutú* (head), or *kokoma* (to write) and *kokóma* (to arrive). There are two tones possible, the normal one is low and the second one is high. There is a third, less common tone – starting high, dipping low and then ending high – all within the same vowel sound, e.g.: *bôngó* (therefore).

## Tonal morphology

Tense morphemes carry tones.

- koma (kom<sup>L</sup>-a : write) inflected gives

- simple present <sup>L</sup>-a<sup>L</sup> :

*nakoma* na<sup>L</sup>-kom<sup>L</sup>-a<sup>L</sup> (I write)

- subjunctive <sup>H</sup>-a<sup>L</sup> :

*nákoma* na<sup>H</sup>-kom<sup>L</sup>-a<sup>L</sup> (I would write)

- present:

*nakomí* na<sup>L</sup>-kom<sup>L</sup>-i<sup>H</sup> (I have been writing)

- sepela (se<sup>L</sup>-pel-a : enjoy) inflected gives

- simple present <sup>L</sup>-a<sup>L</sup> :

*osepela* o<sup>L</sup>-se<sup>L</sup>-pel<sup>L</sup>-a<sup>L</sup> (you-SG enjoy)

- subjunctive <sup>H</sup>-a<sup>L</sup> :

ósepéla o<sup>H</sup>-se<sup>L</sup>pe<sup>L</sup>l<sup>H</sup>-a<sup>H</sup> (you-SG would enjoy)

- present <sup>L-i<sup>H</sup></sup>:

osepelí o<sup>L</sup>-se<sup>L</sup>pe<sup>L</sup>l<sup>L</sup>-i<sup>H</sup> (you-SG have been enjoying)

## Grammar

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### Noun class system

Like all Bantu languages, Lingala has a noun class system in which nouns are classified according to the prefixes they bear and according to the prefixes they trigger in sentences. The table below shows the noun classes of Lingala, ordered according to the numbering system that is widely used in descriptions of Bantu languages.

| Class | Noun prefix | Example | Translation                 |
|-------|-------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| 1     | mo-         | mopési  | <i>servant</i>              |
| 2     | ba-         | bapési  | <i>servants</i>             |
| 3     | mo-         | mokíla  | <i>tail</i>                 |
| 4     | mi-         | mikíla  | <i>tails</i>                |
| 5     | li-         | liloba  | <i>word</i>                 |
| 6     | ma-         | maloba  | <i>words</i>                |
| 7     | e-          | elokó   | <i>thing</i>                |
| 8     | bi-         | bilokó  | <i>things</i>               |
| 9     | m-/n-       | ntaba   | <i>goat</i>                 |
| 10    | m-/n-       | ntaba   | <i>goats</i>                |
| 9a    | Ø           | sánzá   | <i>moon</i>                 |
| 10a   | Ø           | sánzá   | <i>moons</i>                |
| 11    | lo-         | lolemo  | <i>tongue</i>               |
| 14    | bo-         | bosoto  | <i>dirt</i>                 |
| 15    | ko-         | kosala  | <i>to work (infinitive)</i> |

Individual classes pair up with each other to form singular/plural pairs, sometimes called 'genders'. There are seven genders in total. The singular classes 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 take their plural forms from classes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, respectively. Additionally, many household items found in class 9 take a class 2 prefix (*ba*) in the plural: *lutu* → *balutu* 'spoon', *mesa* → *bamesa* 'table', *sani* → *basani* 'plate'. Words in class 11 usually take a class 10 plural. Most words from class 14 (abstract nouns) do not have a plural counterpart.

Class 9 and 10 have a nasal prefix, which assimilates to the following consonant. Thus, the prefix shows up as 'n' on words that start with *t* or *d*, e.g. *ntaba* 'goat', but as 'm' on words that start with *b* or *p* (e.g. *mbisi* 'fish'). There is also a prefixless class 9a and 10a, exemplified by *sánzá* → *sánzá* 'moon(s) or month(s)'. Possible ambiguities are solved by the context.



Noun class prefixes do not show up only on the noun itself, but serve as markers throughout the whole sentence. In the sentences below, the class prefixes are underlined. (There is a special verbal form 'a' of the prefix for class 1 nouns.)

- molakisi molai yango abiki (CL1.teacher CL1.tall that CL1:recovered) *That tall teacher recovered*
- bato bakúmisá Nkómbó ya Yó (CL2.people CL2.praise name of You) *(Let) people praise Your name* (a sentence from the Lord's Prayer)

Only to a certain extent, noun class allocation is semantically governed. Classes 1/2, as in all Bantu languages, mainly contain words for human beings; similarly, classes 9/10 contain many words for animals. In other classes, semantical regularities are mostly absent or are obscured by many exceptions.

## Verb inflections and morphology

### Verbal extensions

There are four morphemes modifying verbs. They are added to some verb root in the following order:

1. Reversive (-ol-)

e.g.: kizinga *to wrap* and kizingola *to develop*

2. Causative (-is-)

e.g. : koyéba *to know* and koyébisa *to inform*

3. Applicative (-el-)

e.g. : kobíka *to heal (self), to save (self)* and kobíkela *to heal (someone else), to save (someone)*

4. Passive (-am-)

e.g. : koboma *to kill* and kobomama *to be killed*

5. Reciprocal or stationary (-an-, sometimes -en-)

e.g. : kokúta *to find* and kokútana *to meet*

### Tense inflections

The first tone segment affects the subject part of the verb, the second tone segment attaches to the semantic morpheme attached to the root of the verb.

- present perfect (LH-í)
- simple present (LL-a)
- recurrent present (LL-aka)
- undefined recent past (LH-ákí)
- undefined distant past (LH-áká)
- future (L-ko-L-a)

- subjunctive (HL-a)

## Writing system

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Lingala is more a spoken language than a written language, and has several different writing systems, most of them ad hoc. Due to the low literacy of Lingala speakers in Lingala (in the Republic of the Congo literacy rate in Lingala as a first language is between 10% and 30%), its popular orthography is very flexible and varies from one Congo to the other. Some orthographies are heavily influenced by the French language orthography; including double S, ss, to transcribe [s] (in the Republic of the Congo); *ou* for [u] (in the Republic of the Congo); i with trema, *aï*, to transcribe [ái] or [aí]; e with acute accent, *é*, to transcribe [e]; *e* to transcribe [ɛ], o with acute accent, *ó*, to transcribe [ɔ] or sometimes [o] in opposition to o transcribing [o] or [ɔ]; i or y can both transcribe [j]. The allophones are also found as alternating forms in the popular orthography; *sango* is an alternative to *nsango* (information or news); *nyonso*, *nyoso*, *nionso*, *nioso* (every) are all transcriptions of *nyɔ́nsɔ*.

In 1976, the *Société Zaïroise des Linguistes* (Zairian Linguists Society) adopted a writing system for Lingala, using the open e (ɛ) and the open o (ɔ) to write the vowels [ɛ] and [ɔ], and sporadic usage of accents to mark tone, though the limitation of input methods prevents Lingala writers from easily using the ɛ and ɔ and the accents. For example, it is almost impossible to type Lingala according to that convention with a common English or French keyboard. The convention of 1976 reduced the alternative orthography of characters but did not enforce tone marking. The lack of consistent accentuation is lessened by the disambiguation due to context.

The popular orthographies seem to be a step ahead of any academic-based orthography. Many Lingala books, papers, even the translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and more recently, Internet forums, newsletters, and major websites, such as Google's Lingala, do not use the Lingala-specific characters ɛ and ɔ. Tone marking is found in most literary works.

## Alphabet

The Lingala language has 35 letters and digraphs. The digraphs each have a specific order in the alphabet; for example, *mza* will be expected to be ordered before *mba*, because the digraph *mb* follows the letter *m*. The letters *r* and *h* are rare but present in borrowed words. The accents indicate the tones as follows:

- no accent for default tone, the low tone
- acute accent for the high tone
- circumflex for descending tone
- caron for ascending tone

|    |    | Variants | Example                       |
|----|----|----------|-------------------------------|
| a  | A  | á â ã    | nyama, matáta, sâmbóle, libwă |
| b  | B  |          | bísó                          |
| c  | C  |          | ciluba                        |
| d  | D  |          | madésu                        |
| e  | E  | é ê ě    | komeka, mésa, kobênga         |
| ε  | Ε  | έ ê ě    | lɛlɔ́, léki, tĕ               |
| f  | F  |          | lifúta                        |
| g  | G  |          | kogánga                       |
| gb | Gb |          | gbagba                        |
| h  | H  |          | bohlu (bohrium)               |
| i  | I  | í î ĭ    | wápi, zíko, tĭ, esĭ           |
| k  | K  |          | kokoma                        |
| l  | L  |          | kolála                        |
| m  | M  |          | kokóma                        |
| mb | Mb |          | kolámba, mbwá, mbelí          |
| mp | Mp |          | límpa                         |
| n  | N  |          | líno                          |
| nd | Nd |          | ndeko                         |
| ng | Ng |          | ndéngé                        |
| nk | Nk |          | nkámá                         |
| ns | Ns |          | nsómi                         |
| nt | Nt |          | ntaba                         |
| ny | Ny |          | nyama                         |
| nz | Nz |          | nzala                         |
| o  | o  | ó ô õ    | moto, sóngóló, sékô           |
| ɔ  | Ɔ  | ó ô õ    | sɔsɔ, yó, sôlɔ, tǔ            |
| p  | P  |          | pɛnɛpɛnɛ                      |
| r  | R  |          | malaríya                      |
| s  | S  |          | kopésa                        |
| t  | T  |          | tatá                          |
| u  | U  | ú        | butú, kóúma                   |
| v  | V  |          | kovánda                       |
| w  | W  |          | káwa                          |
| y  | Y  |          | koyéba                        |
| z  | Z  |          | kozala                        |

## Sample

### The Lord's Prayer (Catholic version)

Tatá wa bísó, ozala o likoló,  
bato bakúmisa Nkómbó ya Yó,  
bandima bokonzi bwa Yó, mpo elingo Yó,  
basálá yangó o nsé,  
lokóla bakosalaka o likoló  
Pésa bísó lélí biléi bya mokolo na mokolo,  
límbisa mabé ma bísó,  
lokóla bísó tokolimbisaka baníngá.  
Sálisha bísó tondima masénginyá tê,  
mpe bíkisa bísó o mabé.

Na yó bokonzi,  
nguyá na nkembo,  
o bileko o binso sékô.  
Amen.



Lord's Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer (Protestant version used in Ubangi-Mongala region)

Tatá na bísó na likoló,  
nkómbó na yó ezala mosanto,  
bokonzi na yó eya,  
mokano na yó esalama na nsé  
lokola na likoló.  
Pésa bísó kwanga ekokí lélí.  
Límbisa bísó nyongo na bísó,  
pelamoko elimbisi bísó bango nyongo na bango.  
Kamba bísó kati na komekama tê,  
kasi bíkisa bísó na mabé.

Mpo ete na yó ezalí bokonzi,  
na nguyá, na nkembo,  
lobiko na lobiko.  
Amen.

## Mandombe

The Mandombe script is an abugida, primarily used to write Kikongo, that can also be used for Lingala. The script is used in the church of Kimbangu as a liturgical script.

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- [Maloba ya lingála \(http://www.suka-epoque.de/SukaE-B-dictionnaire%20lingala.htm\)](http://www.suka-epoque.de/SukaE-B-dictionnaire%20lingala.htm) (in French)
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